IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended) A <u>digital camera</u> ~~data input apparatus~~ comprising:

~~first input~~ <u>recording</u> means for ~~inputting data from an internal unit~~ <u>recording digital image data</u>;

~~second~~ input means for inputting <u>a</u> secret key ~~information~~ from an external device, wherein the external device is portable and interfaces with ~~the internal unit~~ <u>said digital camera</u>;

generating means for generating a digital signature using [[said]] <u>the recorded digital image</u> data and [[said]] <u>the input</u> secret key ~~information~~; and

outputting means for outputting [[said]] <u>the generated</u> digital signature to [[said]] <u>the</u> external device.

35. - 39. (cancelled)

40. (new) A data input method for use with a digital camera, comprising:

recording digital image data;

inputting a secret key from an external device, wherein the external device is portable and interfaces with the digital camera;

generating a digital signature using the recorded digital image data and the input secret key; and

outputting the generated digital signature to the external device.

41. (new) Computer-executable program code stored on a computer readable medium, said computer-executable program code for use in inputting data in a computer system with a digital camera, the computer-executable program code comprising:

code to record digital image data;

code to input a secret key from an external device, wherein the external device is portable and interfaces with the digital camera;

code to generate a digital signature using the recorded digital image data and the input secret key; and

code to output the generated digital signature to the external device.

42. (new) A computer-readable memory medium in which computer-executable process steps are stored, the process steps for inputting data with a digital camera, wherein the process steps comprise:

a recording step for recording digital image data;

an inputting step for inputting a secret key from an external device, wherein the external device is portable and interfaces with the digital camera;

a generating step for generating a digital signature using the recorded digital image data and the input secret key; and

an outputting step for outputting the generated digital signature to the external device.

43.   (new) A digital camera, comprising:

recording means for recording digital image data;

compressor means for compressing the data;

input means for inputting a secret key from an external device, wherein the external device is portable and interfaces with the digital camera;

generating means for generating a digital signature using the recorded digital image data and the input secret key;

first outputting means for outputting the digital signature to the external device; and

second output means for outputting the input data.